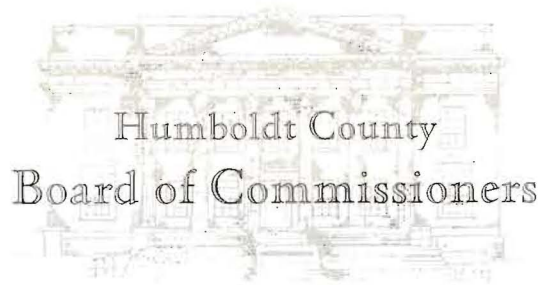


County Commissioners:

TOM FRANSWAY, Chairman
DAN CASSINELLI, Vice Chairman
CHUCK GIORDANO
GARLEY AMOS
MIKE BELL



County Administrator:
BILL DEIST

COURTHOUSE, ROOM 205
50 W. FIFTH STREET
WINNEMUCCA,
NEVADA 89445
Phone: (775) 623-6300
Fax: (775) 623-6302

December 8, 2009

Gene Seidlitz, District Manger
Winnemucca District Office
Bureau of Land Management
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

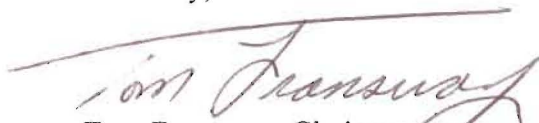
Dear Gene,

Humboldt County is aware of the proposed gather of approximately 2,500 head of excess wild horses in the Calico Complex, which includes five Herd Management Areas. Several of the areas are within Humboldt County. We are also aware that at the present time this complex has approximately three times the upper range of the appropriate management level for wild horses.

The competition for forage and water from wildlife, wild horses, and livestock places all three in danger if action is not taken in a timely manner. It is imperative that the proposed gather go forward as planned to avoid adverse weather, which would only put further stress on the resources and the horses. If the gather is not completed prior to the birth of new foals in the spring it is our understanding that the heard size would increase by approximately another 800 animals. With the level of horses exceeding the appropriate management level at present the increase would only make the problem worst.

Humboldt County strongly encourages the BLM to conduct this gather, as planned, to address a serious problem not only for the resources in this area, but also the health and welfare of the horse population. Without a reduction in the number of animals we would expect to see the death rate increase and we don't believe that is the desire of anyone concerned.

Sincerely,


Tom Fransway, Chairman
Humboldt County Commission

